

NOVEL WAY OF EXTORTION



PHOTO: STAR

A man extorting from a bridal car using a circus elephant at Kaliganj upazila town of Jhenidah. This has become a regular feature in the area as the elephant, besides vehicles, collects illegal tolls from all shops and pedestrians almost everyday.

6 abducted in Matiranga rescued by BGB men

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

Six people, including five forest department employees, who were allegedly kidnapped in Matiranga upazila on Sunday were rescued yesterday.

Commanding Officer (CO) of Palashpur BGB zone in the upazila Lt Col Mefta-ul Karim said, the security forces in a raid rescued the victims from remote Shataronumber Jowtho Khamar (joint farm) area at

around 3:00pm. None was arrested as the kidnappers fled the scene, sensing the presence of the forces, he said.

Earlier the kidnapping incident came to light on Sunday morning after the six did not return from remote Bamagomti area under Matiranga Range where they went to mark the mature trees.

Forest department officials said forester Sunil Chandra Nath and workers Faruk Hossain, Mohammad Alam, Sonamoni Chakma and

Mahbubul Alam went to the spot around noon to mark the mature trees of timber trader Lokman Hossain.

However, the forest employees along with the timber trader did not return from the area and remained missing till they were rescued yesterday afternoon, they said.

Quoting the victims, an official said that a gang of 10-12 ethnic people demanded illegal toll at spot. Being refused, they abducted them to realise ransom, he said.

Man dunks 2 daughters to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bagerhat

A man dunked his two minor daughters to death at Mathpara village in Chitalmari upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The victims are Nisha, 7, and Tisha, 4.

Hasan Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chitalmari police station said culprit Shah Alam Kazi, 35, of Udaypur village in Mollarhat upazila married Jerina Akbar of Mathpara village a few years ago.

Jerina was staying at her father's residence along with the children.

Yesterday morning, Shah Alam came to visit them and around 11:30am, he took his two daughters to a nearby shrimp enclosure to take a bath. But there he dunked the two kids to death and informed the matter to his wife over phone, added the OC.

On information, police with the help of locals managed to catch a fleeing Shah Alam from a place near the Kalatola School field in the area.

During primary interrogation at police custody, Shah Alam disclosed that he had demanded an amount of money from his father-in-law to start a business.

Being angered by his father-in-law's refusal, Shah Alam killed his two daughters, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Sonyasi village in Moreganj upazila of Bagerhat rescued this 10-foot-long python from a crop field on Sunday. Later, the forest officials released the snake in the nearby Sundarbans forest.

THAKURGAON SWASTHASEBA HOSPITAL

Doctors, employees protest attack by gangsters

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Physicians, nurses and employees at Thakurgaon Swasthaseba Hospital brought out a procession in the town yesterday, protesting attack on their colleagues and demanding arrest and punishment of the culprits.

They also demanded adequate security for giving health services without fear.

The processionists paraded different streets of the town and submitted memorandums to deputy commissioner Muhammad Shahiduzzaman and acting superintendent of police Md Belayet Hossain.

Besides, the doctors and employees formed a human chain in front of the DC office.

The human chain was followed by a discussion where the speakers alleged that a local gang of youths often enters the hospital and demands illegal toll from the officials and employees. Sometimes they assault the staffs for refusal to pay toll.

The youths also use the hospital compound as their den for taking drugs, they said.

Yesterday evening, the same gang including Zaharul, Sohel, Setu, Alamgir, Anis, Helal and others entered the hospital and demanded toll from the on-duty staffs.

Contacted, acting police superintendent of police Md Belayet Hossain said police arrested one Zaharul of Collegepara yesterday on receiving an allegation.

"We are trying to arrest the other attackers," he said.



Kalim A. L. Khan
(1977-2009)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

3rd Death Anniversary
of
KALIM A. L. KHAN

May ALLAH grant him peace
and place him in the heavens.

We seek blessings from all
for his eternal peace.

-All family members

Illegal sand lifting from rivers threatens bridge

SUSHANTO KUMAR GHOSH,
Barisal

Unscrupulous people have continued illegal excavation and sand lifting from Kirtankhola and adjoining Sugandha River for over a month, threatening newly opened Shaheed Abdur Rob Serniabat Bridge over the Kirtankhola River.

The callous act is also affecting navigability near Barisal river port and weakening river protection embankments in the area, in addition to causing harm to environment and ecology.

Dredger firms Al Zerin and Rubaiya received permission from Barisal district administration for collecting sand from certain points of Kirtankhola and Sugandha rivers through paying Tk 15 and Tk 12 lakh respectively.

"The lease was given for collecting sand and the arrangement was made under revenue collection procedure through leasing jal mahal (water body) as per selection and design by the surveyors of the land revenue department," said Palash Kanti Bala, the concerned additional deputy commissioner of Barisal.

However, during a visit to the area a few days ago, it was found that the two firms, in violation of the terms and conditions of the lease, engaged about one dozen dredgers under sub contracts at different points outside the leased areas.

The sand lifters took lease

from the district administration but did not take permission from the Directorate of Environment (DoE), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Water Development Board (WDB) for sand lifting, sources said.

In gross violation of the lease contract that specifically mentions places and design for the purpose, dredgers named Satota, Suborna, Raihan, AL-Amin, Swapan, Tanvir, Sattar, Bhulu, Zikrun and Amua are engaged in collecting sands from different areas near Barisal port and Dapdapia Bridge areas.

Journalists found that Satota and Suborna were engaged in collecting sand adjacent to the pillars of Dapdapia Bridge round the clock.

Luthfar Rahman and Aminur Rahman, owners of

Al Zerin and Rubaiya, claimed that their dredging would not affect the bridge and embankment.

They further said that they do not know about the requirement of getting permission from the BIWTA, the WDB and the DoE.

Barisal Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Raza Mia told the journalists that after receiving allegations from the local people they have issued a letter asking the people concerned not to collect sand from the areas adjacent to the bridge.

A firm must take permission from the DoE for sand collection from rivers as important matters like ecological balance, aqua life, and riverbank protection are involved in it, said an environmental official.

BIWTA Deputy Director Wakil Newaz, also Barisal port officer, said permission

from the officials of the ministry concerned is mandatory for private dredging or sand collection from any river route as it affects the water course and navigability of the port areas, biodiversity, and ecological balance.

"We will send letter to the ministry informing about the illegal lease and dredging," he said.

Muhammad Nazrul Islam, superintending engineer of WDB, admitted that sand extraction from the riverbed is gradually weakening the foundation of the embankment and making the region vulnerable to floods and erosion.

The ongoing sand lifting, done within 500 metres of the bridge, will endanger the structure, said Shamsul Arefin, engineer, and Ranjith Kumar Bhoumik, consultant of Dapdapia Bridge.



PHOTO: STAR

Defying the ban on sand lifting from near any bridge, the contractors continue to draw sand from the Kirtankhola River with the help of 8-10 dredgers, threatening the newly built Serniabat Bridge.

BCL

activists

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